Roles of Research: Nov. 14th, 2017 1:15 to 2:45

Chair: Heather Castleden
Panelists: Julie Mugford, Derek Peters, Mark Smith.

We have been hearing that Modern Treaties are reconciliation in action, well, it is more than this. There is reconciliation through-out the whole process of negotiation to implementation.

There has been positive progress on treaties in BC. There are good examples of how to move forward the nation to nation relationship, although there are many smaller communities, there are many nations with modern treaties.

Timing of reconciliation today is good timing, whether we are looking at modern treaties or historical treaties, today relationships are being built. The community participatory approach is essential in research.

BCTC Commission does some research. There is a stereotype thought about modern treaties that communities are selling out, however there are positive stories coming out. Modern Treaties can help communities but also can be helpful to other levels of governments (municipal, provincial and federal).

Communities are starting to do their own research. When traditional community governments do research they involve all community citizenship. It is seen as beneficial to hear from all citizens, to hear directly from the community. The community will ensure that all issues are raised in regards to sacred sites, burial sites, hunting areas, ceremony areas, identify artifacts and ensures our three principles are included, first principle to know everything is one, second respect and third that all is taken care of. Research has helped our community in these ways and allows for adjustments as we go along our work.

Research has been useful for land use studies, finding artifacts, and governance systems. Research also helps with changing perspectives for example sharing of sovereignty with the crown. Research should also contribute to the socio-economic benefits for community. Research can help to build an area of measurement.

Top down government solutions do not work. Within nations initiatives often overlap. Research should support territorial discussions to bring nations together to come up with their own ways of working together. There is a need for research around treaties because the main challenge is that modern treaties are unique and often there are unidentified consequences in implementation.

Examples of research questions:

- how can we use existing data, what is out already there?
- what research is needed to show we are closing the socio-economic gaps?
- How can we share research more effectively?
- Legal policy research is needed on proper rights and entitlement to research?
- Follow-up on court cases will be beneficial to see trends?
- Who should be involved in designing research?
- Policy research needed to look at rights of nations that are not in a treaty.

Research needs to be a collective approach of all parties, all community members, including provincial and federal governments. There is a need to bring nations together to share stories, need to bring knowledge holders together.

Who should be involved in research? There needs to be a collective response and a collective entity needs to give a response to this type of question in order to be useful to more people.

What is best way to receive research information, other than journals and academic routes? Share it by email and use treaty networks, conferences to share research.

How can we best use the results of research to influence policy more quickly? Take it directly to the community. Provide value to nations, specific value added. Share with all people, get studies out there and include all partners in designing the research questions.

Research in FN community is a "dirty word", what does this mean for ethical research?
Research needs to use a community based approach, involve entire tribe, include our three principles, get voice of citizenship in regards to our traditional territories.

Q & A:
What works from your experience with research?

- As FN we ensure our principles (three values) are included in all types of research done in our community.
- Let true knowledge holders be the voice.
- Research needs to be inclusive of partners.
- Make research relevant.

As a non-Indigenous person, what shaped your ally-ship?

- As a young person I was influenced by my father's work with Indigenous community, I then started to work with FN people and have been fortunate to work with some very strong, influential, politically savvy Indigenous leaders.